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Re: Application No. 09/914,804 Attorney Docket No: CONDA.00001	
Date: Friday, April 25, 2003	
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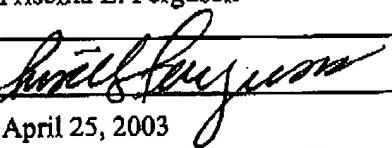
		Application Number	09/914,804
		Filing Date	August 30, 2001
		First Named Inventor	FUJI SEIKO CO., LTD.
		Group Art Unit	1733
		Examiner Name	Adrienne C. Johnstone
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	5	Attorney Docket Number	CONDA.00001

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ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

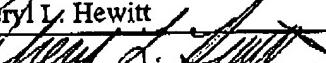
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Firm or Individual name	Priscilla L. Ferguson
Signature	
Date	April 25, 2003

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: FUJI SEIKO CO., LTD.

FILED: August 30, 2001

INVENTION: Rubber Coated Strands; Belt,
Ply, and Tire Using Rubber Coated Strands;
and Apparatus and Method for Manufacturing
Them

SERIAL NO.: 09/914,804

GROUP ART UNIT: 1733

EXAMINER: Johnstone, Adrienne C.

ATTY FILE: CONDA.00001

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

This paper is filed in response to the Restriction Requirement mailed April 7, 2003. No extension of time is believed to be due, but any necessary extension is hereby requested. No fee is believed to be due, but the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any necessary fee to Deposit Account No. 50-0392 of Carstens, Yee & Cahoon LLP.

The Office Action

The Examiner has restricted the claims into four groups as follows:

Group I, Claims 26-29, drawn to a method of forming a coated strand;

Group II, Claims 30-33, drawn to a method of forming a coated strand and then forming a sheet of material from a ribbon including a plurality of the coated strands;

Group III, claims 34-38, drawn to an apparatus for untwisting a strand; and

Group IV, claims 39-45, drawn to a strand coating apparatus.

The Examiner has further restricted the claimed invention into five species as follows:

1. An apparatus for untwisting a strand, a method or apparatus for forming a coated strand, or a method of forming a coated strand and then forming a sheet of material from a ribbon including a plurality of the coated strands, according to the embodiment of Figures 1-3 or Figures 5-6;

2. An apparatus for untwisting a strand, a method or apparatus for forming a coated strand, or a method of forming a coated strand and then forming a sheet of material from a ribbon including a plurality of the coated strands, according to the embodiment of Figure 4;
3. An apparatus for untwisting a strand, a method or apparatus for forming a coated strand, or a method of forming a coated strand and then forming a sheet of material from a ribbon including a plurality of the coated strands, according to the embodiment of Figure 25;
4. An apparatus for untwisting a strand, a method or apparatus for forming a coated strand, or a method of forming a coated strand and then forming a sheet of material from a ribbon including a plurality of the coated strands, according to the embodiment of Figures 27-28; and
5. An apparatus for untwisting a strand, a method or apparatus for forming a coated strand, or a method of forming a coated strand and then forming a sheet of material from a ribbon including a plurality of the coated strands, according to the embodiment of Figures 29-30.

The Applicant's Response

Applicant traverses the restriction requirement. It is submitted that at least Groups I and II of claims can be examined together without placing an undue burden on the Examiner. It is further submitted that all of the Groups can be examined together without placing an undue burden on the Examiner. However, in order to comply with the restriction, applicant provisionally elects Group I, claims 26 - 29.

Applicant traverses the species restriction. Applicant notes the Examiner's position that the application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention. It is submitted that the species can be examined together without placing an undue burden on the Examiner. However, Applicant further notes the Examiner's position that claim 26 is generic to all of the species. Therefore, applicant provisionally elects species 1, and provisionally accepts the notation in the Office Action of Claims 26 – 36 and 39 – 45 as readable thereon.

Summary

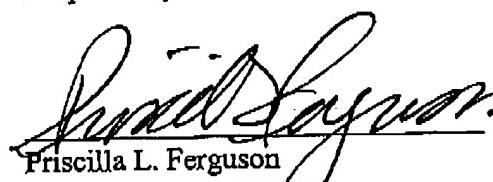
Applicant has elected with traverse the claims of Group I, Species 1.

All other claims remain in the application, but are withdrawn in a non-elected status.

Applicant notes however, that it will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species if such claims are dependent upon an allowed generic claim.

This election with traverse having been made, a first action on the merits is now awaited.

Respectfully submitted,



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